

The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2023-2024 Senate Session 9-5



January 22nd, 2024
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

ROLL CALL

Vice President - Alex Harvey

Secretaries

Catherine Weatherwax and

Santiago Quiros

Parliamentarian - Matthew Cutrona

Class of 2024

Anthony Arreaga-Cacao X

Matthew Michels X

Class of 2025

Neil D'Attelo X

Jeffrey Lance X

Class of 2026

Michael Kish X

Arianna Salerno X

Class of 2027

Jack Hermes X

Clare Tong X

School of Architecture

Elisabeth D'Albero X

Jacob Henry X

School of Arts and Sciences

Correy Crawford X

Jordan Gehrig X

School of Business

David Fritz X

Max Morris X

School of Engineering

Allison Ewing X

Maria Hargrave X

School of Music, Drama, and Art

Anthony Graf X

Kyle Holcomb X

School of Nursing

Whitney Paulson X

Mary Grace Raddell X

School of Philosophy

David Norcross X

Kolbe Tucker X

School of Social Service

Gabriela Pereira-Ruano X

School of Theology

Ryan Corey X

Andrea Suarez X

Key:

X- Here, A- Absent

NOTE: Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered for the present meeting. Notification is hereby proved that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Any legislation or business being presented has been provided to the Vice President at least 48 hours prior to tonight's meeting and to all other members of the Senate at least 24 hours prior to tonight's meeting. The Vice President reserves the right to postpone debate of legislation based on the time constraints of the Senate meeting

CALL TO ORDER -- ROLL CALL 8:15 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 8:16 PM

PRAYER 8:17 PM

Senator Gehrig recites a Hail Mary for the opening prayer.

1. Public Comment 8:20 PM

A. Public comment will be taken at the start of the session. Comments will be limited to one minute per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, and if applicable naming the college or organization they represent. In accordance with Senate bylaws, the Vice President may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of this body, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting, irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

Anthony Curioso, a sophomore music education major who serves on the DSS EI, expresses his support of the appointment of Senator Arianna Salerno.

Sean Scully, a junior philosophy major and Treasurer of the SGA, rises to express his support of the new Treasury Board Director Appointees.

Will Schroeder, a Director of the Treasury Board, rises in support of the new Treasury Board Director Appointees.

Matthew Blomgren, a sophomore Treasury Board Director, rises in support of the new Treasury Board Director Appointees.

Mollie Murray, a freshman accounting major and Treasury Board Secretary, rises to express her excitement at being a candidate for a position on the Treasury Board.

Connor Combs, a sophomore International Business major, says he is excited to be appointed to the Treasury Board.

(Name unintelligible), a member of the Treasury Board, rises in support of the new Treasury Board Director Appointees.

Chief of Staff Accardi, standing in for President Fahey, gives some updates. He thanks everyone for attending and participating in the Winter Workshop, expresses concern about the snow-clearing process from the previous week, and addresses mental health issues being brought to the attention of professors. He also encourages students to attend the Celebration of Consecrated Life Fair.

2. Confirmation and Swearing in of Appointed Senator 8:30 PM

i. Arianna Salerno, Class of 2026

President Harvey reads Senator Salerno's Senate Biography.

Motion to vote on the confirmation of **Senator Salerno** by **Senator D'Attelo**, seconded by **Senator Paulson**.

A voice vote is taken, passed unanimously.

Senator Salerno recites the oath of office and is appointed to the Rules and Administration Committee.

3. Adoption of Agenda 8:35 PM

Motion to amend the agenda by **Senator Hermes**.

President Harvey states that Robert's Rules only pertain if the Senate Bylaws are silent on a matter, but the Bylaws says the President of the Senate has the power to set the agenda.

Senator Hermes points back to the cheat sheet and asks about its inclusion in the first place if the senators are not allowed to use its measures.

Senator Crawford asserts that the senators have the power to amend the agenda based on

clauses contained in the Robert's Rules of Order.

President Harvey states that if there is a point of ambiguity in the Senate Bylaws, Robert's Rules take effect, but since the bylaws are clear on this point, the Robert's Rules of Order does not supersede the bylaws.

Motion to adopt the agenda by **Senator Morris**, seconded by **Senator Tucker**.

Voice vote on the Adoption of the Agenda → Passes

Agenda adopted

4. Approval of the Minutes 8:36 PM

Motion to approve the minutes by **Senator D'Attelo**, seconded by **Senator Raddell**.

Voice vote on the Approval of the Minutes → Passes unanimously

Minutes approved

5. State of the Treasury, Treasurer Sean Scully 8:40 PM

Motion to temporarily suspend the Senate Bylaws by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

Voice vote on the suspension of the bylaws → Passes unanimously

Rules suspended

Treasurer Sean Scully rises to deliver the State of the Treasury.

Treasurer Scully begins by explaining what the Treasury Board does. He says that the student activity fee funds different activities that make up campus life. The Treasury Board takes a portion of the student activity fee and allocates it to student organizations. It is composed of 8 directors and a secretary who aim for consistent and reasonable decision

making regarding allocation of funds. He explains that in order to receive funding, clubs must present their budget to the Treasury Board after submitting funding requests. After viewing each club's presentation, the TB decides how much money to allocate to each club. The club can then decide to accept the TB's decision or appeal. Treasurer Scully announces that thus far in the year, zero clubs have appealed the amount of funding they have received. He also explains that the student activity fee was lower this year due to the long-term effects of the pandemic. Everyone went home in 2020, so much of the student activity fee was not used. It became a cushion amount for the funds given to the TB to allocate, then was eventually removed due to disuse. Scully says that in the future the student activity fee will be higher due to increasing enrollment. He provides graphs and visual aids to demonstrate how much money is allocated to large groups on campus such as the Program Board, SGA, and Campus Ministry. Scully then goes on to say that one of the best decisions he has made as the SGA Treasurer is the directors he has chosen to serve on the TB, who have made his job very enjoyable. He thanks everyone for their attention and opens the floor for questions.

Senator Morris asks what goes into deciding to table clubs' funding requests and why the TB doesn't just deny funding or give partial funding.

Treasurer Scully explains that there are two instances in which funding requests are tabled, and that is when the TB is unfamiliar with the club and when there is a time constraint.

Senator D'Atello asks about the criteria for full, partial, and denied funding.

Treasurer Scully explains that the TB bylaws dictate what can and cannot be funded. For example, clubs requesting funding for food will be allocated 12 dollars per person. In addition, the directors also consider context and practical details when deciding whether to fund an event. For example, funding an event during midterm season would not be very financially prudent.

Motion to reinstate the Senate Bylaws by **Senator Paulson**, seconded by **Senator Crawford**.

Voice vote on the reinstatement of the bylaws → Passes unanimously

Rules reinstated

6. New Business 9:00 PM

A. Confirmation of Treasury Board Appointments 9:00 PM

- i. Mollie Murray and Connor Combs

Motion to vote on the confirmation of **Treasury Board Directors Mollie Murray and**

Connor Combs by **Senator Kish**, seconded by **Senator Ewing**.

A voice vote is taken, passed unanimously.

Mollie Murray and **Connor Combs** are appointed to the Treasury Board.

B. Committee Chair Updates 9:05 PM

i. Senator Michels, Rules and Administration

Senator Michels expresses the committee's happiness to be back this new semester. He welcomes **Senator Salerno**, who has stated her concern with campus safety. **Senator Holcomb** is working to increase access for dancers to the athletic trainers, while **Senator Paulson** is looking to improve admissions training.

ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

Senator Gehrig states that one could say the committee's last meeting was fruitful. **Senator D'Albero** is looking into the parking situation while **Senator Graf** and **Senator Radell** are working together to improve safety communications. **Senator Suarez** continues to investigate the possibility of Italian masses on campus, while **Senator Gehrig** herself is working on the headshot booths in CACS Office as well as funding for Education majors. Finally, **Senator Fritz** has a resolution hitting the floor today.

iii. Senator Kish, University Services

Senator Kish shares that the last Committee meeting, humorously looking at a dictionary for a descriptive adjective, was good. He recently met with Housing Services on a resolution to install whiteboards in one of the student dorms which is coming to the floor that night (**Resolution 008**).

iv. Senator Ewing, Student Resources

Senator Ewing announces that the last Committee meeting had not been fruitful, as there was no meeting. Even so, **Senator Henry** continues to work on the installment of bike racks, asking the rest of the Senate for any information that could be useful. Meanwhile **Senator Ewing** works to improve the printing services in Leahy Hall, which have not gotten much better.

v. Senator Corey, Campus Life

Senator Corey shares that the Committee did not meet last week. He mentions **Senator Hermes** who is co-sponsoring **Resolution 009**, to extend the hours in the Kane Fitness Center, as well as **Senator Lance** who is sponsoring **Resolution 010** to increase non-meat options on days of abstinence in Garvey Hall. The Committee is happy to bring the latter resolution to the floor.

C. Senator Michael Kish, Class of 2026 (Resolution 008) 9:15 PM

i. A Resolution to Install Whiteboards in Centennial Village

Senator Kish rises to introduce his resolution. He expresses the impact of whiteboards in studying. He says that there are potential infinite possibilities and the budget for the project has been approved. He explains that this is a pilot resolution and that senators will support the students whose education rests on these whiteboards if they vote yes for this resolution.

Senator Crawford expresses his support for this resolution, especially since it will allow people to write things and then erase them instead of carving them into the walls.

Senator D'Albero asks whether markers will be included.

Senator Kish says that while he was initially hesitant to say yes, the Housing Department has faith and wants to include markers despite the fact that they will be stolen.

Senator Gehrig says she thinks the whiteboards should be attached to the walls.

Senator Kish provides the dimensions of the whiteboards and confirms that they will be affixed to the wall.

Senator Hermes asks why this bill is only being implemented in Centennial Village instead of all residential halls.

Senator Kish explains that since this is a pilot resolution, the idea is to just start with CV and move on to other halls in the future.

Senator Paulson asks whether there was a poll taken regarding interest in this resolution.

Senator Kish says that this resolution was born from word of mouth and asking students.

Motion to vote by **Senator D’Attelo**, seconded by **Senator Crawford**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 25

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D’Attelo, Lance, Salerno, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D’Albero, Henry, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Pereira-Ruano, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 25 Yays, **Resolution 008: A Resolution to Install Whiteboards in Centennial Village**, passes.

D. Senator David Fritz, School of Business (Resolution 009) 9:30 PM

- i. A Resolution for a Pilot Extended Hours Program at the Kane Fitness Center

Below is a copy of **Senator Fritz’s** Speech:

“Thank you **President Harvey**. I want to keep my remarks short, I know we have a lot to get through tonight.

The Kane Fitness Center is a vibrant place in our campus community. Many students utilize this space to improve their personal health or to benefit their respective athletic teams. Unfortunately, the Kane’s small size limits its potential.

I have heard calls from my constituents to increase the size of the Kane. After talking with some administrators at the Kane and finding out that their department doesn’t generate any revenue, it became clear that this was not a feasible option at the moment. A more realistic, short term answer would be to increase the hours at the Kane. I worked with George Bauman, who is the Director of Fitness, Recreational Sports & Wellness, to discuss a pilot program which would be implemented this semester.

We researched the operating hours of other comparable universities' fitness centers to determine times to pitch to active users of the Kane Fitness Center's hours.

As noted in the resolution, 175 of 230, or 76%, of respondents (to a poll giving out) would use the Kane in the proposed hours. Extending Friday's closing time from 7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. would align our fitness center with that of other universities, and provide students with an increased opportunity to remain healthy during their time at Catholic.

This pilot program also addresses the concerns of prohibitive costs. This pilot program incurs only an additional hour and a half of overhead costs.

If the pilot program is heavily used, then perhaps the Kane will move forward with a permanent expansion of its hours, not only granting students more flexibility but also more job opportunities.”

Senator Hermes takes the opportunity to thank **President Harvey** for helping the sponsors find the funding for this pilot program.

Senator Salerno congratulates the sponsors on the great idea. She asks if there would be data available for opening the Kane earlier in the mornings.

Senator Fritz responds that Director Baumann has that data on a spreadsheet. If this pilot program is successful, we could look into extending other hours.

Senator Hermes explains that the Kane just has a hard time finding workers for earlier hours.

Motion to vote by **Senator Lance**, seconded by **Senator Hargrave**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 25

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D'Attelo, Lance, Salerno, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Pereira-Ruano, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 25 Yays, **Resolution 009: A Resolution for a Pilot Extended Hours Program at the Kane Fitness Center**, passes.

E. Senator Jeff Lance, Class of 2025 (Resolution 010) 9:45 PM

i. A Resolution to Increase Non-Meat Options on Days of Abstinence in Garvey Hall

Senator Lance rises to introduce his resolution. He says that last year on Ash Wednesday, there was an abundance of meat options. There were few options available for Catholics practicing abstinence. He asks all senators for their support on this resolution.

Senator Gehrig emphasizes that this was a big issue last year and there was a discrepancy in communication between administration, dining services, and students.

Senator Kish says students should be able to eat fish during Lenten Fridays.

Senator Hermes expresses his support for this resolution. He says that Providence College serves no meat on Lenten Fridays and that this resolution is very reasonable.

Senator Ewing thanks Senator Lance for the resolution, saying that she fought people over cheese pizza last Ash Wednesday.

Senator Norcross asks about the absence of protein and whether there will be an emphasis on pescatarian meals.

Senator Lance says that dining services will be responsible for specificities.

Senator Crawford expresses his support for the resolution.

Senator Suarez thanks Senator Lance for bringing this resolution to the floor. She asks how we can offer suggestions to dining services.

Senator Lance says that students can pass suggestions along to him or go directly to dining services themselves.

Senator Gehrig says that she typically emails dining services and that they love to hear from students.

Senator Norcross asks whether there will specifically be an emphasis on fish.

Senator Lance says that there has been no clarification from dining services.

Senator Gehrig explains that there was usually a fish option available which will still be in place.

Motion to vote by **Senator Hermes**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 25

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D'Attelo, Lance, Salerno, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Pereira-Ruano, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 25 Yays, **Resolution 010: A Resolution to Increase Non-Meat Options on Days of Abstinence in Garvey Hall**, passes.

7. Vice President, SGA Updates 9:26 PM

“Welcome back everyone! Congratulations to Senators Fritz, Kish, and Lance on the passage of their resolutions this evening. As always, please see Secretary Polking after the meeting to provide a synopsis on your resolutions. We will commence our committee meetings next week back in McGivney Hall.

Finally, as many of you know, I did not include Senator Michels’s resolution in the agenda for this evening. As I promised Senator Michels in my explanation to him, I will provide you all with my full reasoning behind this decision. Effectively, it boils down to three main points: a consideration of the ends and means of resolutions, feasibility of enactment, and repetitiveness.

My decision to not include this resolution is neither ideological nor is it personal. When resolutions are presented to me, I consider a whole host of criteria. My first point to consider is whether this idea achieves its end through the proper means. A resolution’s end goal may be

beneficial but the method of bringing it about may not be proper or best suited to actually resolve an issue on campus. I wholeheartedly believe in ensuring individuals feel protected across our campus, but I believe the most effective change here comes through our university members taking up the mantle of changing the culture. An additional criteria I have to consider is the feasibility of a resolution. If any resolution passes our senate, I have to consider if it will be implemented, and I also must weigh the opinions of higher members of our university administration. The answer from last year's administration is the same answer today.

Lastly but most importantly, has this idea come repetitively to the floor over the years. A resolution of the same vein has come to the floor in multiple SGA Senates over previous years- it is my responsibility to ensure legislation does not become repetitive. Even though I did not include Senator Michels resolution in tonight's agenda, I want to emphasize that President Fahey and I will continue our efforts to ensure every student on our campus is protected from any form of discrimination.”

8. Open Floor 9:29 PM

Senator Hermes apologizes for standing up before **Senator Salerno** was sworn in, stating that it was totally inappropriate (In reference to his motion to amend the agenda). Although, he does not believe that **President Harvey** is being impartial. He explains that he just read the bylaws differently.

Senator Holcomb is excited to hear that **President Harvey** is willing to work with the senators about the powers of the president regarding this issue. **President Harvey** emphasizes that he was by no means endorsing such a bill.

Senator Crawford states that clarity is important especially in light of the miscommunication seen this evening. He will be working with **Senator Hermes** on this section of the bylaws to propose a bill so senators have the right to amend the agenda.

Senator Tucker welcomes **Senator Salerno**. The Senate talked last meeting on proposing resolutions that directly benefit students. He thanks **Senator Lance** for his resolution just passed. Finally, he thanks **President Harvey** for the difficult job he undertakes and appreciates his effort.

Senator Gehrig welcomes **Senetaro Salerno**, who has been a long-time friend of hers at CUA. She congratulates **Senator Lance** and **Senator Fritz** on their passed resolutions. She ends by sharing that she has a meeting with Dining Services tomorrow, so feel free to let her know of any concerns.

Senator Ewing states that the resolution and bill cosponsors should be more involved in their legislation. She emphasizes, “We are the Catholic University of America!” and she

shares a message of love the Lord and love thy neighbor. She politely disagrees with **President Harvey's** decision not to permit **Senator Michels's** resolution to appear on the agenda.

Senator Hermes echoes Senator Ewing's message. He describes himself as maybe the most conservative guy in the Senate, but he will not discriminate, reiterating that we should protect all students. He shares his enthusiasm for having finished the meeting early.

Senator Paulson invites students and senators to participate in Centerstage.

Senator Michels says that he has been involved in a number of student organizations over his time at CUA. He has served as a Cardinal Ambassador, as an OA, and many other roles. He says he feels that although his mission at CUA is not yet complete, his time in SGA has come to a close. He says that he is resigning from his position as a senator and that the last three years have been a blessing.

President Harvey thanks Senator Michels for the time he has served in the Senate and accepts his resignation.

Senator Lance thanks Senator Michels for serving in the Senate and welcomes Senator Salerno. He invites all to attend the Celebration of Consecrated Life.

Senator Suarez thanks Senator Michels for serving as a role model for her. She says that although the resolution didn't hit the floor, every human has dignity and no one deserves discrimination.

Senator Crawford thanks Senator Michels and says he is proud to call him a senator and friend. He says that it was disappointing that the executive board was unwilling to change and that he is sad to see **Senator Michels** go.

Senator Graf thanks Senator Michels for serving in the Senate and welcomes Senator Salerno. He says that he and Senator Raddell are discussing a possible safety resolution.

Senator Gehrig thanks Senator Michels for always being a good friend and mentor. She says he is a great guy who helped her get to where she is now.

Senator Holcomb jokingly says that he is responsible for creating the monster that is Senator Michels. He emphasizes that Senator Michels truly cares for others and that we have not seen the last of him.

Senator Norcross expresses his disappointment in Senator Crawford's comment regarding the executive board.

Senator Ewing thanks Senator Michels.

Senator Salerno thanks everyone for welcoming her so warmly and says that it was an honor to sit three seats away from Senator Michels for two hours.

Senator Paulson says that Senator Michels is a great guy who will always listen and always give back.

9. Adjournment 9:15 PM

Motion to adjourn by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

Voice vote on adjournment → Passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned